

after he was a victim of carjacking in the Wal-Mart Super Center parking lot Monday night.

According to Dickson Police investigators, Derrick Harmon, 20, of Dickson, was driving through the center's parking lot in a 2000 Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck about 8:45 p.m. when a black male

The report filed by Sgt. Bill Miller said the suspect forced Harmon at gunpoint to drive to the East Piney Road area. The suspect then told Harmon to stop at East Piney Road and Clifton Road and ordered him out of the vehicle.

"The complainant stated that he believes the suspect pulled the trigger of

Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to Tices Springs Market, located at Highway 48 South and East Piney Road in reference to the incident. Harmon was at the market after having escaped the carjacker.

Since the incident began in the city, Dickson Police are handling the case. Dickson Police Capt. Danny Norman

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Dickson's water is safe for drinking

State environmentalists show no contaminants

By CAMERON COLLINS
Editor

Rest assured — water supplied by Dickson to its customers is safe to drink.

That's the message members of the city's water committee got from Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Chuck Head during a meeting Monday night.

The water, supplied from at least four raw sources, said Louis Burnett, manager of TDEC's division of water supply, has always been safe to drink. There have been no volatile organic chemicals distributed to consumers through the city's water supply.

"I want to assure people who live in and around the city of Dickson their water is as safe as it can possibly be to drink," said Dickson Mayor Donnie Weiss Jr. "It has been in the past, is now and we intend for it to be in the future. We want people to know when they turn their faucets on the water is safe to drink."

Weiss was particularly perturbed about a statement made by a physician on a recent news telecast indicating that doctor wouldn't drink water supplied by Dickson. "It's disconcerting to hear that from a Nashville physician... people shouldn't deliver messages like that unless they are informed about a situation and he was not fully informed," Weiss said. "That's the reason we've gotten some of these questions from citizens."

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"It has been in the past, is now and we intend for it to be in the future. We want people to know when they turn their faucets on the water is safe to drink."



Weiss

Fatal crashes claim



Timothy L. Bellman, 20, of Dickson, died from injuries he suffered in his car on Jones Creek Road Thursday.

Director, band members dedicated show to drum major killed in Fairview

By TERI BURTON
Associate Editor

A White Bluff teen was killed Thursday night when she was hit by a van in Fairview.

Capt. Randal Ward of the Fairview Police Department said Crissy Johnson, 19, of 2119 Griffin Town Road in White Bluff, a 2000 graduate of Dickson County High School and 3-year drum major for the school band, was a passenger in a car being driven by Suzy Hencle of Kingston Springs.

Ward said a dispute between the two girls ensued over whether Johnson should go home. Johnson tried to exit the car as it was mov-

ing and Hencle stopped on the side of the road. Johnson got out and fell down an embankment. Hencle drove up the road to turn around and come back to talk to Johnson. As Johnson came up the embankment and began crossing southbound Highway 96 she was hit by a van driven by Miriam Fly, 205 Ridgewood Lane in Franklin. She was thrown over the top of the van and onto the highway at southbound Highway 96 and Cleveland Lane.

Johnson was taken by Williamson County Ambulance to Williamson County Hospital where she was pronounced dead, Ward said.

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share because of tax loopholes. I pledge to support our education programs and to support a fiscally responsible budget that eliminates waste and spends the taxpayer's money wisely."

Raising revenues is a way other than a tax increase is also a priority for Shepard, who opposes a state income tax.

"First and most important, a vast majority of residents in the 69th District have voiced their opposition to a state income tax, and I will always vote the will of the people," Shepard said. "The second reason is that there are many other options available to both raise income and reduce spending that should be considered before adding another tax to an already overtaxed resident of this great state."

Close examination "to insure that the people's money is being spent wisely" and restructuring of the state's budget would be Shepard's first move to increase state and state-shared revenues to pay for needed services.

"Most people I talk to feel we have a spending problem, not an income problem, and that the state could live within its means like the taxpayers have to," he said. "Our state's growth and economy is the best it has been in many years, and

it is hard to understand why we are in a budget crisis.

"We must insure that we maintain a strong business environment and continue to grow our economy while maintaining a low tax base in order to continue to attract new jobs and new industries. As our economy grows, our income grows, and with proper management of income I feel the needed services can be adequately funded."

Providing adequate healthcare for state citizens is also a priority for Shepard, who has worked in the federal health care system and with the state's health care program, TennCare.

"It is a vital program that is very important to the residents of the 69th District who are dependent upon it for health care services," Shepard said. "We must recognize its importance and must admit that it has some problems. We should be proud that we are one of the few states in our country that has actually done something to reduce the number of people who are uninsured. The TennCare program represents a large part of our state's budget, and I am eager to use my health care experience and my knowledge of TennCare to help fix the problems."

Shepard said one of the main

Early voting is continuing through Nov. 2 in Dickson

If voter registration is any indication of what to expect as far as voter turnout in the Nov. 7 general election, Dickson County could show a significant number.

Election Commissioner LuAnne Greer said there are about 24,500 registered voters in Dickson County. Early voting began Oct. 18 and ends Nov. 2.

Voters will select a new United States president, a new state senator and a new state representative and will decide if the local sales tax should be raised by a half-cent.

Early voters can go to the Dickson War Memorial Building basement Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., or to the Election Commission

Office on Courthouse Square in Charlotte Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon.

Voters in Dickson County, in addition to the national candidates, will elect a state representative and senator. Bonnie Butler (R-Hickman) is squaring off against State Rep. Doug Jackson (D-Dickson) for the 25th District Senate post, while newcomers Danny Tidwell (R-Dickson) and David Shepard (D-Dickson) are vying for the 69th District Representative slot left vacant when Jackson indicated he was seeking the senate opening after longtime Sen. Pete Springer died last April.

concerns with TennCare is the misuse of the system.

"The benefits that TennCare provides are better than most commercial insurance plans," he said. "Some of the TennCare recipients feel if 'you don't use it, you lose it.' There is certainly abuse, misuse, overuse and fraud that must be eliminated."

Shepard also cites as problems the managed care/gatekeeper parts of TennCare not being used effi-

ciently, and that managed care organizations get paid too much for program administration.

"I am ready to do my part to help fix this expensive, but very vital program," Shepard said. "The money saved in fixing TennCare can be used for so many important programs like our schools and universities, community-based health services for seniors, roads, community and economic development, our environment and others."

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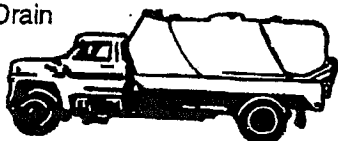
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...Safe

• FROM PAGE A1

The Environmental Protection Agency uses a standard for volatile chemicals called an MCL or maximum contaminant level. For trichloroethylene that level is 5 parts per billion; at that level, a person would have to consume two or more liters a day for 20 years and then only one in a million could expect some adverse health condition, Burnett told the committee and members of the Dickson City Council who were present.

"We've been concerned about that misstatement, too," Head said of the physician's remarks. "If someone calls and expresses a concern to us we'll go out and sample their water. We want to help reas-

SHRINERS OFFER AID

Jon (Bird) Armstrong, who lives in an area around the Dickson County Landfill, is a Shriner. He's seen the children with cleft pallets and cleft lips, and emphasizes with the children and their parents. As with many children's medical endeavors such as burn units, the Shriners also provide help for those affected by cleft defects.

The Shriners Hospital for Children's Chicago Unit specializes in orthopaedic treatments, plastic and reconstructive surgery and spinal cord injury care at no charge. Families of children are also provided a place to stay at no charge during the procedures.

To refer a child to the Chicago Shriners Hospital or to obtain an application, contact Armstrong at 446-4508 (work) or 446-2465 (home), a Shrine Temple, or the

Owner: King welker

We're sampling, and we're doing as much as we can to find out what's

going on."

Still, Head nor Burnett could provide a cause-and-effect relationship or hypothesis as to why some 18 or 19 babies have been born in Dickson County since 1997 with a cleft deformity. Two conditions must be present to spur the defect — a genetic predisposition and an environmental trigger. Organic solvents such as TCE and toluene are such environmental triggers, according to the Birth Defect Research for Children. There have been trace amounts of TCE detected at some private wells, as well as DK-21, a well once used to subsidize Dickson's water supply.

However, DK-21 was used only for 18 days in 1997, and those were not consecutive days, Burnett told the panel.

"We are at a point where we feel the TCE problem is very localized," said Dickson County Landfill Manager Jim Lunn. "When this cleft problem surfaced, the first move we made was to sample an affected family's well and we know they're drinking clean water."

The landfill, because TCE was legally dumped there, is thought to be one possible source for the contamination. There are nine monitoring wells around the landfill and none have ever detected TCE, Lunn said.

There have, however, been levels of the chemical solvent detected in a private well used by Harry Holt and in Sullivan Springs, but that's raw water and was never introduced into the distributed drinking water. Those levels, though, were noted in 1990 and 1997, and during recent testing, there were TCE levels discovered in a couple private wells. Those residents have since been provided city water.

Head and Burnett told the panel no additional testing was needed at this time.

"We'll be cautious...we'll survey the wells and work with the county on doing a hydrogeology study because there is a lot of limestone in, around and under the landfill with cracks and fissures," Head explained. "We'll do our best to determine the cause and insure there are no future problems."

"For the people who have been affected, those parents who have children with a cleft defect, this is very serious."

Burnett concurred. "If we're in doubt, we'll take the extra steps," he said. "We think we did a real good job of taking care of the community...when someone says the water's not safe to drink, I take it personally. We're making sure we haven't overlooked anything. When I tell you the water's safe, it's from the heart."

Bird Armstrong, who lives within the one-mile radius of the landfill identified as the most likely localized off-site migration for TCE said he was reassured by the

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community

Listening to our
senior citizens
For Medicare
prescription plan
and for community
based health care

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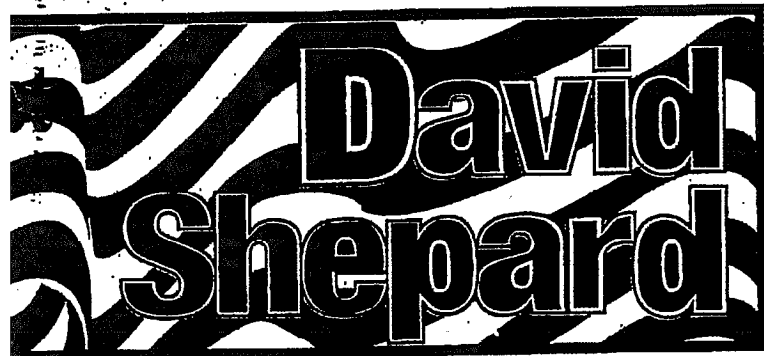
farmers and understanding
agricultural issues

A life of work...

All of my life, I have tried to take the lessons that my parents taught me and put them into practice. I believe that a productive community is born out of every citizen's personal desire to serve that community and work

hard for its betterment. There should be a balance in life. To achieve that balance, we must never forget our roots and life lessons. I am running for State Representative for the right reasons. I want to do something for this district and for the community. I am running because I want to serve.

...a life of service



**Democratic Candidate
e Representative**

Please vote November 7 2000



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